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6 **UNITED STAES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE**
7 **EASTERN DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON**
8

9 **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,**

10 Plaintiff,

11 v.

12 **CONNER DUANE GOODMAN,**

13 Defendant.

14 **Case No. 4:22-CR-06001 MKD-2**

15 **DECLARATION OF**
16 **CONNER DUANE GOODMAN**

17 I've now spent the last year and a half trying to decide how to explain all this, how to
18 tell the court who and what I am and figure out how to move on. The simplest word I could
19 use to explain what led me here is weakness. The simplest way to explain my goals with this
20 organization is with a few words: security, purpose, and money. This writing is not intended
21 to excuse my behavior, merely to explain it, because I want the record to show who I actually
22 am, not the projection I created to hide my weakness. Nonetheless my actions are also who I
23 am, and I must live with the consequences of those actions.

24 Growing up there were periods of my life where I was bullied, anxious, and insecure,
25 to some degree I still am. I learned to compensate for this with two things, completely
shutting down negative emotions in order to diffuse the scenario, or being argumentative if
the situation wasn't threatening. This is what eventually led me down the path of politics, I

1 could attach my fragile masculinity to my debate skills and conjure up an enemy I couldn't
 2 actually see face to face. First, I tried going hard left, and then over time I moved to the right
 3 as the left started to act less masculine, my opinions changed, but my projection of as an
 4 idealist never changed.

5 Some of my friends in high school were a group of outcasts, people my parents tried
 6 to keep me away from, people that had experienced hardship I couldn't begin to understand.
 7 Nonetheless, they wore their weakness on their shoulders as well, mainly through more
 8 physical and emotional forms. I hated my weaker personality traits, and they encouraged the
 9 same, I eventually looked up to this fake strength and started trying to rebuild myself. I was
 10 weak, naive, emotional, unable to display anger, and riddled with a savior complex. By the
 11 time I reached college, I would attempt to create a new Conner. I thought "new friends, new
 12 place, new me." Mostly unsuccessful in the realm of actual personality traits, the result being
 13 that I had to further incorporate drugs, partying, promiscuity and political extremism to
 14 compensate. That new friend group only lasted four years, after college I started
 15 unsuccessfully grasping at straws.

16 When I saw this movement start, the memes, the sense of community, and the
 17 political opportunities drew me in. I couldn't get enough and went all in immediately, trying
 18 to find a community. I helped build networks, removed bad actors, and started friendships, I
 19 found meaning. I eventually found a group that wanted to go legitimate by establishing a set
 20 of rules, some hierarchy, and create a nonprofit to legitimize the movement. None of that
 21 really panned out, but I only established myself as a leader at the state level, so all I could do
 22 personally was work on convincing people above, below or adjacent to me into doing what I
 23 felt was best.

24 The movement devolved quickly due to bad actors, and we abandoned it early on,
 25 as did most within it, instead embracing more broad liberty based terminology. Although we

1 continued with the memes and the terminology because we were already so entrenched. We
 2 continued our work as most groups seemed to devolve from within, and ours began to do the
 3 same. The others that helped me run the group, Dan among them, started to struggle with the
 4 stress of the demands of leadership. I began to take on more and more of the responsibilities,
 5 hoping that if I allowed them to rest, they would come back ready to help, but that wasn't
 6 really the case. The group was mostly dead for the last couple months of the investigation,
 7 and I asked Dan to help me bring the fun back. The fear of a world collapse wasn't motivating
 8 anymore, the people that could teach were tired, and my attempts to get them to think about
 9 money and political influence failed.

10 I accelerated my plans to build a business for the group, so that fun, money, and
 11 eventually tangible political change could finally be what motivated them. I thought if I just
 12 did it myself and could pull them along with me. The Christmas bonus that I got from my
 13 work, (which I actually received the same day as the warrants were served, December 16th,
 14 2021) was going to be used to start the business for the group, a business in the gun world
 15 which I had been planning personally for a long time. We started doing more of the fun stuff,
 16 survivalism, hikes, training with firearms, barbecues, and even our own thanksgiving
 17 celebration at an Airbnb. I started handing out titles to the other active members to further
 18 motivate them and keep them active. Let anyone motivated to do something for the group do
 19 what they wanted. I let CHS run more firearms training, which we had seriously over
 20 saturated already, to the point people started complaining. Broke the group up into smaller
 21 sub teams in hopes I could encourage them to meet up more often. We tried everything we
 22 could, but we were mostly wasting our energy trying to keep the family alive.

23 I wholeheartedly believed those were the intentions of both Dan and CHS when
 24 making these devices, a source of fun training tools for the group. They are both good men
 25 and good fathers, they made terrible jokes and discussed crazy scenarios, as we all did, but I

1 knew they did not have violence in their hearts. Dan compared his values to CHS's when he
 2 recruited him, Dan threatened to leave the group due to unstable and accelerationist members,
 3 just like CHS. Dan had long term plans and family to worry about, just like CHS. They were
 4 different in many ways, but the same in others. They had regular disagreements, but I wanted
 5 to eventually see them operating as a team, leading the group. I figured this might be a good
 6 bonding experience for them and knew it would help keep Dan busy with his hands, which is
 7 what he needed in my opinion. Dan had actually left the group because he had too much
 8 going on with his personal life, he couldn't also handle motivating everyone, the drama, the
 9 planning and the teaching. He was having so many nightmares about us being hunted down
 10 and killed, so he couldn't sleep. We had a lengthy phone call where I basically begged him to
 11 come back, because the group was burning out, I promised him that he didn't need to worry,
 12 that his gut was wrong. I said that all these little things that were giving him anxiety were
 13 nothing, we didn't need to worry about an investigation because we weren't going to hurt
 14 anyone or do anything serious. I told him I needed him back in order to keep our family
 15 together, and I ignored all the signs because I was too busy desperately clinging to this family
 16 so I could continue stroking my ego. Ultimately the fault rests with me, I promised them all I
 17 would keep them safe. That I would keep the crazy people out, and that I would protect them
 18 by not allowing stupid choices to be made. I then failed to keep that promise by desperately
 19 trying to keep them entertained.

20 It's understandable that some members are convinced Moral Markets is somehow
 21 connected to the group, I kept them mostly in the dark about its intentions, to protect my
 22 ideas, but also because I wanted to keep it entirely separate. It's an idea I've been consistently
 23 working on since I was in college, and I told the group repeatedly that I'd step down if it was
 24 successful to focus on it instead. Moral Markets is not intended to recruit new members for
 25 my group, it's going to be run like a B corporation or a nonprofit, but without the tax dodging

1 and excessive leadership paychecks of the typical big business. It's going to be a green
2 energy, infrastructure and community building project, something that's designed to unite
3 both the left and the right of this country together.

4 This is not the business plan of someone trying to fight the United States, this is the
5 business plan of someone trying to help fix it. The day I decided to file for incorporation was
6 September 11th, 2021, because as I was watching a 9/11 documentary, watching the towers
7 fall, I imagined how terrible it would be to have the country label my group as terrorists, how
8 much damage that would do to my people and their families, and to my family as well. I also
9 imagined how well this country united as one after that day, and I hoped that maybe I could
10 somehow unite them like that again. So right then I decided that I needed to move this group
11 into a verifiable, legitimate position as soon as possible, so that I could step down and move
12 forward with Moral Markets. Given my current situation, it's clearly not the right time to
13 move forward with this project. Nonetheless I have maintained the existence of the company,
14 because I intend to do everything I can to prove to this country who I am after this is over.

15 When I told my parents what had happened, they were clearly distraught, but after
16 my arrest, my dad couldn't look at me for three days. My night in prison didn't feel great, but
17 that long silence from my father hit me hard. Our relationship is mostly back to normal, but I
18 can still feel how differently he views me, that level of disappointment is hard to hide. At the
19 same time, helping him with projects around the house, his window business, and his Camaro
20 restoration project are some of the main things that kept me going.

21 I asked the court to give me the chance to continue working, to allow me the
22 opportunity to repay my parents for my legal expenses, help around the house, and to help my
23 dad continue running his business while recovering from his shoulder surgery. I have mostly
24 completed that repayment, but I've also tried to guarantee I can continue that repayment while
25 incarcerated, because I still have student loans to repay them for as well. I helped an old

1 friend from college start a moving business in Texas, but it hasn't quite found its footing yet.
 2 I'm only 20 percent owner, but I have some experience getting a business filed, and I'm an
 3 administrative minded person. So, he does the heavy lifting and I do the paperwork. We still
 4 have a lot to learn, although he's a very motivated man and I'm confident we can get things
 5 going. I'm also in the process of helping my sister start a clothing company. She's been
 6 struggling with a bipolar diagnosis, and I've been struggling with my legal repercussions, but
 7 we both found solace in our fitness routines. So, we plan to have a fitness and mental health
 8 focused brand, we also intend on pledging 10 percent of our earnings to mental health
 9 nonprofits.

10 I've also somehow managed to find love during all of this, for the first time in my
 11 adult life, with a friend of mine that stuck around through all of this. She's an amazing
 12 woman, and she's kept me positive on the days I otherwise wouldn't have been. She has a
 13 degree in psychology, and I've always enjoyed the topic, so we've spent a significant amount
 14 of time openly working through our issues together. She's been a friend to all of my family
 15 members, she helped me get a job immediately after getting fired, she helped find my sister a
 16 summer job, she's become something of my North Star. We have a complicated situation
 17 given my current legal circumstances and our past traumas, so we haven't put a title on it. I
 18 guess we hoped it'd make it easier to end things if I do significant time, but ever since we
 19 started saying we love each other, I'm not sure it'll help much. If it goes the other way, I'm
 20 going to marry her and give it my all.

21 More recently I've been doing serious personal work, and I've realized that I do
 22 actually need therapy. I've always feared it, and I'm pretty good at lying to myself about
 23 things, so I kept trying to convince myself I was okay. I guess I used the same recreation
 24 process all over again, I've worked on myself quite a bit, but I avoided many of the weaker
 25 parts of myself. I guess I thought that if I managed to keep my emotional weaknesses buried

1 long enough, I could be strong enough to survive prison time. Instead, all I did was let fear
2 stunt my growth and put myself in a worse position again, too many things happened at once
3 and I simply couldn't handle it. I think I've discovered why anger is an inaccessible emotion
4 for me, and it's going to take a lot of work to get myself where I should be.

5 I understand this is long, but I could write a whole book explaining what led me
6 here. I've had a lot of time to learn these last 18 months, and I can't even begin to express how
7 much I appreciate the opportunity to do that work while on house arrest. I understand a
8 serious amount of additional learning time might be given to me, and I'm fully ready to accept
9 that.

10
11 DATED this 23RD day of August 2023.

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13 
14 Conner Duane Goodman (Aug 24, 2023 12:37 PDT)

15 Conner James Goodman
Defendant